

13. ROSERINGED PARAKEETS *PSITTACULA KRAMERI* (SCOPOLI) FEEDING ON SEEDS OF KARVI *CARVIA CALLOSA* (NEES) BREMEK.

Thirteenth June was rather cloudy day with intermittent showers. As we were returning from a morning's ramble in the Borivli National Park, we heard the screechy clamour of a flock of parakeets squabbling over food. A closer look revealed a flock of Roseringed Parakeets, *Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli) plucking *Carvia callosa* heads and holding it in their toes.

As we approached closer to them they flew and the number was around 100+. We could also identify a few Alexandrine Parakeets *Psittacula eupatria* among them.

Karvi mass-flowered in 1992. On the edge of the Karvi patch lay scattered broken off twigs and inflorescence. This happens to be an unrecorded item

in the dietary of the Parakeet. Mr. J.S. Serrao informs us that he has observed the Roseringed in flocks breaking off portions of the branch with dried inflorescence of *Hyptis suaveolens* (L.) Poit. (*Vilayathi Tulsi*), carrying it to a nearby branch or an overhead wire, and perching thereon to feed on the seed.

July 13, 1993

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14. CRAB-EATING BY WHITEBREASTED KINGFISHER *HALCYON SMYRNENSIS* (LINN.)

On 24th December, 1992 while I was watching some waders in a nullah near our house at Panchwati in Udaipur City of Rajasthan, I saw a Whitebreasted Kingfisher dart into the shallows of the nullah and fly away with a crab in its beak. It perched on a Babool tree (*Acacia nilotica*), but remained only for a very short time and flew to the roof of a nearby house and started battering the crab on the roof. Probably disturbed, it again flew and settled in a high and dense part of the Babool tree. Here again it battered the crab on a branch and broke off a leg. It changed the position of the crab in its beak and started beating

it on the branch of the tree. In this fashion it removed all the appendages of the crab in 13 minutes. Then it started to press the body of the crab in its beak. After 12 minutes of this labour it shaped the body of the crab to suit its gullet and gulped it down.

July 2, 1993

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15. LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER, *MEROPS ORIENTALIS* LATHAM FEEDING ON CRABS

During my protracted stay on Beyt Dwarka last February at the southern entrance of the Gulf of Kachchh I repeatedly observed more than a dozen of the little Green Bee-eaters perched on drift wood, algae fronds and lumps of dead coral dashing low over the sand to pick off the small, white crabs that

live all along the beach in great numbers.

April 29, 1993

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